

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3976

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPSP, EAID, VE

SUBJECT: OPEC COUNTRIES ASSISTANCE TO UNFPA AND OTHER
POPULATION PROGRAMS

REF: STATE 113178; STATE 113982

1. MINISTRY OF HEALTH OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN FAMILY PLANNING REPORT THAT SALAS OF UNFPA VISITED VENEZUELA EARLY IN 1975 AND TALKED WITH A NUMBER OF OFFICIALS OF THE GOV INCLUDING PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A VENEZUELAN DONATION TO UNFPA. SALAS WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING A GOV DONATION. BENJAMIN VIEL OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE DIVISION OF INTERNATIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION (IPPF) HAS ALSO SOLICITED GOV SUPPORT WITHOUT SUCCESS.

2. GIVEN PRESIDENT PEREZ'S ACTIVE SUPPORT OF THE GOV'S OWN FAMILY PLANNING EFFORTS AND VENEZUELA'S LARGE LOANS TO THE IDB AND THE IBRD AS WELL AS ITS ACTIVE BILATERAL AID PROGRAMS WITH A NUMBER OF ITS LATIN NEIGHBORS IT IS NOT CLEAR WHY THE GOVERNMENT HAS REFUSED TO ASSIST BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL POPULATION
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PROGRAMS. HEALTH MINISTRY OFFICIALS SPECULATE THAT THE GOV IS

UNWILLING TO CONTRIBUTE TO UNFPA OR IPPF BECAUSE OF
COMMINGLING OF FUNDS BUT MIGHT BE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD
FINANCING SPECIFIC IPPF OR UNFPA PROJECTS IN NEIGHBORING
COUNTRIES WHICH ARE ALREADY RECIPIENTS OF VENEZUELAN AID.
THE EMBASSY FINDS THIS REASONING LESS THAN WHOLLY SATISFACTORY
GIVEN GOV CONTRIBUTIONS TO IDB AND THE IBRD WHICH ALSO
COMMINGLE FUNDS.

3. UNFPA ENJOYS A GOOD REPUTATION AMONG VENEZUELAN FAMILY
PLANNERS. IPPF IS CURRENTLY EMBROILED IN A CONFLICT
WITHIN
THE VENEZUELAN FAMILY PLANNING MOVEMENT AND THUS WOULD
BE LESS LIKELY TO BE CONSIDERED FOR GOV AID AT THIS TIME. ANY
DECISION ON AID TO EITHER UNFPA, IPPF, OR OTHER MULTI-NATIONAL
OR BI-NATIONAL POPULATION PROGRAMS WILL INEVITABLY BE MADE
BY PRESIDENT PEREZ HIMSELF. LOWER LEVEL OFFICIALS ARE
GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC WHEN THIS QUESTION IS RAISED BY
EMBASSY OFFICIALS BUT ALWAYS EMPHASIZE THAT THE QUESTION IS A
POLITICAL ONE WHICH MUST BE TREATED AT THE PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL.
IT IS UNLIKELY THAT DONATIONS BY OTHER NATIONS WOULD INFLUENCE
PRESIDENT
PEREZ'S DECISION.
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